**Supplemental Digital Content 8. Excluded studies (n=53)**

**> Inadequate population (n=14):**

>> Pediatric;1-3

>> Preterm;4-9

>> Sickle-cell patients;10-14

**> Inappropriate intervention (n=16):**

>> Transfusion protocol applied ≤24h: single RBC administration,15-23 protocol applied a few hours,24,25 or unclear;26

>> Hemodilution protocol;27-29

>> Autologous blood;30

**> Inappropriate study design (n=12):**

>> Multiple interventions;31-35

>> Not adequately controlled (the control group was not randomized);36

>> Crossover design with short washout period;37

>> Not RCT;38-42

**> Other issues (n=11):**

>> Not published as full report;43-45

>> Retracted;46

>> Subgroup analyses of larger RCTs;47-53

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